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THE GULL



GGAS OFFICE FOUND

It may not still be news, but GGAS has an office at 1550 Shattuck in Berkeley. Our telephone numbers are unchanged, and we moved in June 7. It is Room 204 at the Cedar-Shattuck Center of the Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley. It is occupied on a month to month basis until we determine that it fully meets our needs. Our neighbors on the second floor include a credit union, travel office, insurance office and the UN Association's UNICEF Shop. A very suitable meeting room is available for board and committee meetings.

The office is open from 10 to 12 and from 1 to 4, Monday through Friday. It will be closed August 6-17.

Come for a visit. For those coming from San Francisco, exit Hwy. 80 at University Ave. and drive to Shattuck, turn left and left again at Cedar. The Co-op parking lot is available, but busy.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING —
SEPTEMBER

There will be no membership meetings in July or August, and of course **The Gull** will next come to you in September.

The September meeting will be in Berkeley, and the speaker will be photographer and traveler Kevin Schaefer. Details will be in the next issue.

GGAS ON THE MOVE

The President's Report

In June **The Gull** reported our financial circumstances. It also told of our lost lease. Our membership continues to drop. Our latest report indicates that we have about 5100 members, down from 6300, our maximum a few years back. Governmental bodies, local, state and national are turning from the prudent course of conservation to new programs which exploit and devastate the environment. The challenge for GGAS seems grim. However, though we are faced with serious problems, I believe we are in an excellent position to solve them and end the year in a favorable position.

During the past several years several of our most active officers and directors left the board. We have rebuilt the board with some strong and energetic people who will help provide the leadership necessary at this critical time. We initiated three major fundraising activities: the October

(continued on pp. 98)

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Friday/Sunday, June 29/July 1 — Lassen Volcanic National Park. See June Gull. \$.

Saturday, July 7 — San Mateo Coast. See June Gull.

Sunday, July 8 — Chimney Rock. See June Gull.

Tuesday, July 10 — Beginners' Trip to Rodeo Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Marin Headlands Ranger Station. Take Hwy. 101 north across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Sausalito exit and turn left through the tunnel to Marin Headlands. Follow the road to the ranger station at the beach. Bring liquids. We will walk about one mile on level ground around the lagoon. We will be looking for gulls, egrets, bitterns and night-herons. The trip will end around noon. Leader: Jerry Scott (752-5835). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, July 28/29 — Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Lake and Tioga Pass. On Saturday, meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Big Bend campground three miles west of Lee Vining on Hwy. 120. Sunday's meeting place will be decided on Saturday. From the Bay Area, take your favorite route to Yosemite National Park. Take Hwy. 120 over Tioga Pass and down the east side of the Sierra to the town of Lee Vining or to one of the Forest Service camps west of town. Motels in Lee Vining include: Best Western Lake View Motel (714-647-6543), Gateway Motel (714-647-6467) and Murphey's Motels (714-647-6316). We will bird in Lee Vining, Mono Lake and other areas. Be prepared to caravan to the various birding spots. Leader: Jon Zablackis (642-9121). \$ (✓)

Sunday, July 29 — Moss Landing. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Marina parking lot. Go south on Hwy. 1 to Moss Landing. Turn right (just beyond the PG&E station) at the road to the Marina Science Lab. The parking is just before the one-lane bridge. We will be looking for early migrating shorebirds. Bring snacks and beverages. This trip will end at noon. Leader: Don Starks (408-371-9720)

Thursday/Sunday, August 16/19 — Back-packing Trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. We will backpack in three miles and spend three nights camped by a lake near a large meadow. We should see mixed flocks of warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, resident birds of the mountains and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be in beautiful country! Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some cooperative meals may be arranged. For details call David Rice (527-6696). This trip is limited to 12 people. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich. \$ (✓)

Saturday, September 8 — San Mateo Coast. Meet at Pescadero Beach parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at 9 a.m. Please carpool to this point if possible because parking is limited. We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. If you wish to join the group for the afternoon only, meet us at the Ano Nuevo parking lot at 1 p.m. Bring lunch and a light jacket; the weather can be cool along the coast. We will look for migrants along the coast and shorebirds in the mudflats. We will be looking for Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Tattlers

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and Knots. We may also see Harlequin Ducks at Ano Nuevo. Leader: Ted Chandik (493-5330).\$ (✓)

Saturday, September 8 — Beginners' Trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the visitors' center. Take the Jarvis Ave. exit from Hwy. 17 west to Newark Blvd.; turn right and follow the signs to the park. Bring lunch and liquids. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh-water marsh habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, September 15/16 —Yosemite National Park. On Saturday morning meet at 8 a.m. at Bridalveil Campground. See the September Gull for additional details for this trip. \$ (✓)

There will be a trip to Mt. Pinos for condors around the end of September. See the September Gull for details.

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelley (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222). Note: Because of the move the office may be closed at various times this summer.

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

GGAS CONSERVATION AWARD: Phillip Burton

The GGAS 1983-84 Conservation Award was posthumously given to Phillip Burton. Congressman Burton was largely responsible for the creation of the Golden Gate National Re-

creation Area, the Redwood National Park and contributed to many other conservation causes. He is sorely missed, but his widow, Sala Burton, who was recently elected to succeed him, and who is again candidate for reelection, is carrying on the work they both believed in. A staff member from her office accepted the award on her behalf at the annual meeting on June 10.

OBSERVATIONS: MAY Through May 30

May is a transitional month. Waterbirds of note are few, but often quite heterogeneous. Several western landbirds are misplaced, and the vanguard of June's pulse of eastern vagrants steals in. This year we have an added feature, a coastward irruption of five species typical of more arid habitat.

WATERBIRDS

Another rehabilitated Laysan Albatross was banded and released at SE Farallon Island April 28 (PRBO). On May 19 a Laysan Albatross was seen twelve miles off Bodega Bay (KC, AB, TC, mob). An adult Little Blue Heron appeared on Bolinas Lagoon at Audubon Canyon Ranch May 19-27 (PRBO), and two were there May 22 (NBa, et al.).

A Blue-winged Teal along Drakes Estero Trail May 12 (JMu, RH) and two on Mendoza Pond May 15 (AG, WG) were probably migrants, but a male on Mowry Slough in Fremont May 30 (CS) makes one wonder whether a female lay hidden on a nest. A male Canvasback was at the same place that day (CS), but nesting by this species would represent a less-expected range extension.

A survey of adult Snowy Plovers between Hayward Shoreline and the Leslie Salt plant in Newark counted

195; they seem to be holding steady in this area (CS). However, the race track proposal for Baumberg Tract in Hayward threatens their best habitat.

The news on nesting terns is bad. Least Terns returned late, settled slowly, and constituted only a fraction of their normal numbers. At this writing the Alameda Naval Air Station colony has only just reached a third of its 70-75 nesting pairs in recent years (LDC, LF, SFB). Moreover, the Least Terns of this colony are the only ones that have been seen in the Bay Area this Year! Fragmentary reports from Southern California indicate that only five of ten San Diego County colonies of Least Terns are active. Bair Island, San Mateo County, not only has no Least Terns to date, but none of its 1,000 pairs of Caspian Terns are nesting there! Other Bay Area colonies are active, but they are not swelled by absorbing pairs from Bair Island, normally the area's largest colony.

A **Black Skimmer** at Moss Landing May 12 (DTr) was likely the same individual seen at the Pajaro River mouth about a week later (JW, RW, fide BS).

ARID IRRUPTION

This ambiguous heading could refer to the very dry conditions that have prevailed in Central California since the start of 1984. It could point to the dryness of Southern California, including the deserts, during the past twelve months. These climatic events may well bear a casual relationship to my real focus; a pattern of unusual coastward occurrence of five species typical of interior, usually arid habitats.

Most dramatic has been the irruption of Costa's Hummingbirds, because this bird normally reaches the greater Bay Area only at the lower Del Puerto Canyon. In addition to those at this site and to other individuals mentioned

in the April Observations, many more males were discovered. At least **three** and possibly as many as six became resident along Bobcat Trail at Rodeo Lagoon (CF, mob). One in Nearby Tennessee Valley was found May 20 (DT). Others were along Mines Road May 6 (MD, et al) and in Stevens Creek Park, Santa Clara County, May 19 (JMS). Several hummingbirds reported from Tilden Park were probably Costa's (mob).

The parallel irruption of Lawrence's Goldfinches also expanded. They remained in Briones Park, and numbers ranging from two to twelve or more were reported from at least five different locations in Tilden Park and northeast Berkeley (mob). Only the next species reached the Farallon Islands, but three Lawrence's Goldfinches did the next best by appearing near the Point Reyes Lighthouse May 18 (DS, MLR). A much rarer desert bird was the **Bendire's Thrasher** banded on SE Farallon Island May 19 (PRBO). This island's four records constitute the majority for the whole region.

Black-chinned Sparrows are usually restricted to the dry chamise and other hard brush, no closer than Mt. Diablo. One was along Fairfax-Bolinas Rd. May 6 (DT, CF, et al.). Another has been singing at Palomar (PRBO). Along Nimitz Way in Tilden Park, a male was singing May 10-20 (TK, NE) and on May 28 three males were singing in new locations, two were seen with mates, and one of these pairs was carrying nesting materials (SFB, et al.).

As final support of this pattern I cite the abnormal abundance of Lazuli Buntings in both Tilden and Briones Parks, where they are typically common only very locally (mob).

EASTERN VAGRANTS

Clear weather limited the discovery of eastern spring vagrants to five

individuals, but most always come in June in any case. A Tennessee Warbler was singing at Nunes Ranch May 27 (JM, et al.), and a Magnolia Warbler was close by at Point Reyes Light-house May 29 (KC). Best was a singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co., May 24-25 (fide BB). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, our most numerous spring vagrant, began with individuals at Lincoln Park, San Francisco 18 & 21 (AH, NB) and in the Point Reyes ("New") Willows May 29 (KC).

MISCELLANEOUS LANDBIRDS

A migrant Gray Flycatcher was in Lincoln Park, San Francisco, May 8 (LE). The Mountain Chickadee at Nunes Ranch May 29 (KC) is at this point an anomalous vagrant. A Lapland Longspur was still at Hayward Shoreline May 6 (BR). A Yellow-headed Blackbird in the California Marine Mammal Center in the Marin Headlands May 14-17 (BK) was quite unusual in that county. The male **Great-tailed Grackle** was still resident in San Francisco Aquatic Park May 27 (SFB). Ten Red Crossbills were along the Nimitz Way in Tilden Park May 12-20 (JM, NE).

Observers: Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Nora Bain (NBa), Alan Baldridge, Bruce Barrett, Neil Blank (NB), Kurt Campbell, Ted Chandik, Graham Chisholm, Laura D. Collins, Nancy Conzett, Blair Csuti, Maryanne Danielson, Lee Elias, Nancy Elsner, Carter Faust, Leora Feeney, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Robert Halsey, Alan Hopkins, Bill Keener, Ted Koundakjian, Arthur Lyons, Robert A. Mendle, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan (JM), Janet Murphy (JMu), Miranda Nelson, Harold Newman, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon reports thanks to Jay F. Penniman), Michael

Perrone, Bob Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barbara Scharfenstein, Dianne Scirra, Chris Swarth, Jean Marie Spocelman, Emery Thomas, Jean Thomas, Dorothy Tobkin, David Trollman (DTr), John Warriner, Ricky Warriner, David Wimpfheimer.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY

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CONSERVATION NOTES

Huge Wetlands Development Planned for Hayward

Over 700 acres of seasonal wetlands just south of the San Mateo Bridge in Hayward will become the new home for a combined Bay meadows/Golden Gate Fields horse racing track if a plan by Shorelands Corporation is successful. In the works since 1980, this is currently the largest wetland development plan in California. The development site consists of several abandoned salt ponds in the Baumberg Tract, a region of ponds owned by the Leslie Salt Co. (a subsidiary of Cargill). The area under consideration functions as a seasonal wetland. Between October and April it is important habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl; during the rest of the year the area dries considerably. In spring and summer, however, the dried salt flats are excellent habitat for nesting Snowy Plover and this area supports the single largest concentration of these beleaguered shorebirds in coastal California. American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and terns also nest and forage nearby, and Burrowing Owls make their home on surrounding levees.

The proposed development site at Baumberg was once a marsh, but was diked off from the Bay many decades ago. It is nonetheless part of our historic wetlands. Since the turn of the century 260,000 acres (66%) of California's prime coastal wetlands have been lost to a variety of developments which were thought to be of more value to man than wetlands. Loss of this habitat around San Francisco Bay still continues despite its acknowledged value for wildlife and overall health of our environment. We should be looking for ways to preserve and increase wetland habitat rather than destroying the remaining pieces.

A battery of regulatory agencies (including the Army Corps of Engineers) must review this project as yet an environmental impact report has not been prepared. Several questions must be addressed when this project is reviewed: Why must two popular racing tracks abandon their present locations? If they must move, are alternative sites available that are away from the Bay? If Baumberg Tract is developed what will be the overall impact on wildlife? The Shorelands Corporation has already anticipated a strong reaction by environmental groups and as mitigation they propose purchasing an eight mile strip of bayshore in Hayward to be given to the East Bay Regional Park District for construction of a hiking trail. In addition, they also propose purchasing already-protected sections of nearby salt marsh and turning the lands over to the Park Regional Park District for construction. The Park favors the development project, as does the City of Hayward which stands to gain \$2,000,000 annually in parimutuel betting fees.

If you are concerned about this project send your comments to the Mayor, Alex Giuliani, or members of the

city council at the City Hall, 22300 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541, and to Calvin Fong, Army Corps of Engineers, 211 Main St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

—CHRIS SWARTH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued)

bird blitz for Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the December wildlife art show and drawing for GGAS, and the June wine and cheese benefit for our sanctuary, Audubon Canyon Ranch. (This raised nearly \$1000). We organized a new San Francisco Christmas Bird Count which attracted 75 birders and the attention of newspapers, radio and television. The GULL has a new look. We continue to offer more than 100 field trips during the year. Our monthly programs have achieved new levels of excellence. Our Conservation committee is stronger than ever, with sub-committees meeting on both sides of the Bay. Hospitality has met the increasing responsibilities brought with each new activity. Our new computer, donated by Compu-Pro and Qume, and our photocopier donated by O.M.I. of California are changing our office operations. Staff and volunteers are working hard to adapt these resources to our needs. Finally, we have a balanced, if austere budget. For these and other reasons I am optimistic about our future.

The coming year will see us continue to strengthen our Society by following up last year's successes. We plan a membership drive for the fall. Bird-seed sales are a probability for fall and winter. We hope to launch an education committee in September to coordinate our new adopt-a-classroom and backyard sanctuary programs. John James Audubon's 200th birthday celebration will be a major public outreach effort on the part of GGAS.

By September we will have decided on a permanent new home in Berkeley.

Your Society is on the move. We are building a broader income base, increasing our support to other organizations, becoming more visible to the general public, more aggressive in conservation and are offering more to our members. Join us on a field trip, enjoy a program, or involve yourself on a committee. The Golden Gate Audubon Society can be everything we want it to be - join us for the best year ever.

... DAN MURPHY

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Three "teen-aged" Ash-throated Flycatchers recently found my yard their playground. A bit gawky, their heads somewhat large for their bodies, their raised crests looking unkempt, they made me laugh out loud as they chased each other, croaking a likeness of their parents' calls, "Three beers!" They appeared to be totally enjoying their new-found flight as they practiced dives, swoops and "stalling." I recalled some old descriptive terms for a group of birds: a brood of hens and a gaggle of geese. What would best-describe this bunch?

I remembered a slim, paperbound book on my shelf: "An Exaltation of Larks" by James Lipton. I found 44 separate terms for birds alone! It seems that during the Middle Ages, the sophisticated art of hunting demanded an equally sophisticated language. In order to avoid embarrassment, a person had to know the proper term to describe a creature of the hunt. It was also a form of sport to develop plays on words. The following are among my favorites:

- an ostentation of peacocks
- a paddling of ducks
- a peep of chicks
- a charm of finches

- a scold of jays
- a host of sparrows
- a murmuration of starlings (!)
- a wedge of swans
- a bouquet of pheasants
- a wake of vultures
- a stand of flamingoes
- a parliament of owls
- a descent of woodpeckers (from their flight pattern)
- a fall of woodcocks (from the male's courtship display)

Since there was no term to apply to my group and since the author encourages you to coin your own phrases, I came up with either a romp, a frolic, a rollick, a swoop or a tyrant (from their family name) of flycatchers. Once you start this game, you're hooked. Think of the possibilities for hummingbirds: a hum, a buzz, a dazzle, a rainbow or a jet of hummingbirds. The possibilities are endless. The fun begins!

— MEG PAULETICH

SUMMER BIRDING IN SAN FRANCISCO

Summer birding in the San Francisco Bay area is a bit slower than during other seasons. Spring vagrants appear at Pt. Reyes National Seashore during early June. Migrating shorebirds first appear in mid July. Immature birds follow by mid August. They can be found at the Palo Alto Baylands, Alameda South Shore and the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Bolinas Lagoon and Bodega Bay are both fine sites on the coast north of San Francisco.

Mid August brings our first returning landbirds. Most are common west coast species. Land's End, Golden Gate Park and Lake Merced can come alive overnight. The full impact

of migration isn't really felt until mid-September when our "vagrant traps" on the coast return the central California coast to birding excellence.

Coastal birding is productive from the Cliff House and Ft. Funston on San Francisco's ocean coast. From the observation deck at the Cliff House check the rocks for Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Western and Heermann's Gulls, Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican and later in the season Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Surf-bird, Wandering Tattler, Sanderling and Willet. Two miles south at Ft. Funston look for all species of scoters, Though Blacks are rare during summer. Forster's and Caspian Terns can be seen here and Elegant Terns become common by August. Common Murres abound just beyond the second row of breakers. Pigeon Guillemots can be seen here as well. Huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters come close to shore, particularly during late summer.

Land birds and waterfowl can be seen in many of San Francisco's parks. Golden Gate Park is particularly good. It is well groomed and intensely used east of Crossover Dr. The paths in the rear of the Arboretum are good for California Quail. The Fuchsia Garden provides habitat for hummingbirds. The Rhododendron Dell and Stow Lake should be checked as well. The park's best birding can be had west of Crossover Dr. Plan to walk about a mile over flat terrain around the Chain-of-Lakes. Circle both Middle and North Lakes. Bushtits, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds and various warblers, finches and sparrows can be seen here. From the north end of North Lake walk west into the forest. Look for Pygmy and Redbreasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers, Red Crossbills and a number of other woodland

residents.

Lake Merced, located at the southwestern corner of the City, is another fine birding site. Check the north end of the lake at the end of Sunset Blvd. Walk west to the fishing beach (100 yds.), south to the wooden footbridge, and east to the dog running area ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile). This is a good area for landbirds and waders. Drive east then south on Lake Merced Blvd. (2 miles) to the south end of the lake. Park and check the area around the bridge. Continue driving around the lake to the entrance road to Harding Golf Course (1.5 miles). Birds seen at Lake Merced during summer include Western Grebe (both forms), Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, Ruddy Duck, Tree, Violet green, Bank, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Black Pheobe, Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat.

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— DAN MURPHY

Piedmont Birding Class MidSummer

Dr. Michael Perrone's bird identification class at Piedmont Adult School starts on July 11. For details see last month's GULL or call Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 or 658-3679, day or night.

FALL BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Free evening bird classes will be offered through the Galileo-Marina Community College Center starting in August. Open enrollment permits students to enroll any time during the 18-week semester. Just go directly to the classroom, room 227, Marina Middle School, corner of Bay and Filmore Sts. on the day and hour listed below. Free parking is available in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the Building.

Each class consists of a weekly two-and-one-half hour illustrated slide-lecture stressing identification, status and habits of North American birds. The text for all classes **FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**, available from National Geographic Society by calling (800) 838-4077.* The instructor is **Joseph Morlan**, co-author of **BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA** and compiler of our weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" (843-2211).

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology for those with no previous birding experience. It stresses concepts in behavior, population sociology and evolution illustrated by common Bay Area birds. It is suitable for all levels and meets Tuesdays starting Aug. 14 - 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology II is for those who already know most of the common birds but who wish to sharpen their birding skills. It will systematically cover orioles, tanagers, finches, loons grebes, seabirds etc. It will meet Wednesdays starting Aug. 15 - 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology III is a continuation of Ornithology II. It is an in-depth presentation of gulls, terns alcids etc. It meets Thursdays starting Aug. 16 - 7-9:30 p.m.

Optional series of eight morning bird walks may be arranged on weekends for a fee of \$30, but all evening classes are free. Field trip details will be discussed in class. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class with you if you have them. For more information call the college at 931-3595.

*also available at GGAS office, 1550 Shattuck, Room 294, Berkeley.

SEARCH FOR RARE BANDS ON BIRDS

The Pan-American Shorebird Program appeals to birders to report

sightings of banded Sanderlings. If you see a marked bird, the most important thing to note is the color of the leg flag. This is a plastic band with a short (quarter inch) stub sticking out one side. It is very noticeable. The flag indicates the country in which the bird was banded. Once you confirm that, pay attention to the color bands it carries. These indicate when and where, within a particular country, the bird was banded. Even if you are not certain of all the data, please report that you have seen a marked bird.

Facts to report are location, date, time of day, length of beach walked, number of Sanderlings sighted, number of banded Sanderlings sighted, and for each the band combination:

right leg	left leg
color:	color
color:	color

Please send your reports to the Sanderling Project, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923

OBSERVATIONS OF WILLOW FLYCATCHERS

The California Department of Fish and Game in undertaking a study of the Willow Flycatcher in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements and reproductive success. Please send reports of recent sightings (within the past decade) of breeding Willow Flycatchers to Ronald W. Schlorff, Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name, address, phone number and the following: Location of sighting (if possible, provide legal description of nest territory - township, range, section, $\frac{1}{4}$ section - ideally, a copy of a topographical map should be included), date of observation, behavioral notes

and any other information (e.g. evidence of nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds or threats to habitat). This will assist State and Federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for this bird species of special concern.

CENSUS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs volunteer census takers for its Diked Baylands Wildlife Study in California. Birding and other skills will be utilized to document wildlife use of wetland areas threatened by development. Surveys of species present and habitat conditions will be made at more than 100 study sites in the vicinity of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Minimum commitment is only four hours per month, at volunteer's convenience, during the next three to five years. Comprehensive orientation training and official uniform patch provided. To receive an information packet with an application and position description, write or call Terri Pencovic, FWS, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E 2727, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 484-4731. Terri is volunteer coordinator, Ecological Services, WFS.

FARALLON ISLAND LECTURES

This summer Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Oceanic Society are sponsoring four lectures by staff of the two organizations to be given at Fort Mason from 6 to 8 p.m. on four Thursdays. Reservations are recommended; they should be made through 474-3385.

On July 5 Peter White will keep you spellbound with tales from the first discovery of the islands, through the era of the lighthouse keepers, to the establishment of the wildlife Refuge and Marine Sanctuary.

Aug. 2 Stephanie Kaza will tell how

great white sharks may play an important role in the marine food web around the Farallones.

September 6 Mark Weber and Izzy Szczepniak will discuss the behavior and natural history of blue, gray, humpback and minke whales.

Hundreds of elephant seals and sea lions congregate on the rocks and beaches of the Farallones. Oct. 4 Harriet Huber will discuss the range of behaviors between mother and pup elephant seals.

The charge for each of the lectures is \$3.

BIRDING TRIP TO WESTERN MEXICO

Chris Carpenter and Joe Morlan will be leading a trip to the Matzatlan - San Blas area of western Mexico from Nov. 16-22, 1984. This is an area of spectacular birding and scenery. Cost, including air fare, is \$1295. The trip is limited to ten participants. Reservations should be made by mid-August. Call Chris Carpenter for details at 376-6802.

SUMMER TOURS - SFBBO

There is still plenty of room left in the July Yosemite trip, but the August Arizona and Condor trips are filling fast, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory writes us. If these car camping trips appeal to your taste phone or write SFBBO care of Donald Starks, 2076 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose, CA 95124 or phone (408) 371-9720 for dates and prices.

PELAGIC TRIPS TO CORDELL BANKS

Three all-day boat trips to the Cordell Banks have been scheduled for this fall, leaving out of Bodega Bay, Sonoma County. The dates are: Aug. 25th (Saturday), Sept. 15th (Saturday), and Oct. 21st (Sunday). August trip leaders are Pete White and Kurt Campbell.

The Cordell Banks are a seamount (submarine mountain) 22 miles west of Pt. Reyes. Seabirds and mammals often concentrate here in response to an abundant supply of food. While diversity and abundance of seabirds have usually been somewhat less than for similar trips out of Monterey, this area is also much less well known. *Birds of Sonoma County* (Bolander & Parmeter) lists species seen here on past trips.

Space reservations are \$35 each, and may be made by sending check or money order to: Kurt Campbell, P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. These trips are all expected to fill very early; make reservations now. Those making reservations will receive a receipt and further information. For inquiries only, call 707-664-0104 before 9:30 p.m.

BENEFIT—LUXURY TOUR TO MONO LAKE

The Mono Lake Committee has done it again: they plan a super deluxe tour to Mono Lake leaving San Francisco at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 5 and returning at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8. The tour will include a special excursion of the Mono Lake area guided by David Gaines, founder and chairman of MLC, an overnight stay and dinner at the Awahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, two nights in Lee Vining with a side trip to Bodie. An expert guide will be aboard to tell about the wonders of Yosemite Valley and the high country of Tioga Pass and the by-gone days of Bodie. This will be a wilderness experience with creature comforts - easy travel, great accommodations, delectable food, terrific guide service and a trip into the past.

All interested parties are encouraged to write MCL board member Grace de Laet, 37 Calhoun Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94133, or call her at 398-6744.

MONO LAKE BENEFIT CRUISE

The Mono Lake Committee sponsored cruise to Glacier Bay by way of the Inside Passage June 15-29, 1985 is on and you are invited to join the adventure. The new Sitmar liner, FAIRSKY, will sail from San Francisco on June 15, 1985 for an unforgettable 14-day cruise. There will be stops of four to 16 hours at eight ports to allow plenty of time for sight-seeing in Canada and southeast Alaska.

By reserving space now we can obtain 1984 prices and affinity group discount. Fares vary with location and number in a cabin, but there is substantial savings to our members and part of the amount paid will be a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake. A deposit of \$400 made by Dec. 10, 1984 will reserve your accommodation, the balance will be due April 10, 1985. For full details, send a self-addressed, 4 1/2"x9 1/2" stamped envelope with your request to: Alaska in '85 % M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS **Gift of**

In Memory of
Josephine Spielmann

Dr. Ernest Levinger

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In Memory of
Gardner Teilman Aileen Pierson

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGASS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

Berkeley, California 94709

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104

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.